In response to that Office Aciton, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3-7, 12-19, 23, 25-27, and 29-33 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 8-11, 20-22, 24, and 28, and add Claims 34-49, to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1. (Amended) A data communication system comprising:

a source node; and

one or more destination nodes,

wherein the source node is adapted to set a segment size in accordance with a reception capability of the one or more destination nodes, to segment object data into one or more segments in accordance with the segment size, and asynchronously to transfer data in each segment to the one or more destination nodes via a logical connection.

2. (Amended) A data communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the source node is adapted to transfer data continuously in each segment to the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection.

8. (Amended) A data communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the source node is adapted to set the segment size in accordance with the size of a receiving buffer in each destination node.

9. (Amended) A data communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the source node is adapted to set the segment size in accordance with a maximum payload size of a packet received by each destination node.

10. (Amended) A data communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the source node is adapted to set the segment size in accordance with the lowest reception capability.

11. (Amended) A data communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the segment size of each segment is variable.

20. (Amended) A data communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the data communication system is a serial bus system.

21. (Amended) A data communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the data communication system conforms to IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

22. (Amended) A data communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the object data is one of image data, audio data, graphics data, and text data.

24. (Amended) A data communication method of transferring object data from a source node to one or more destination nodes via a logical connection, the method comprising :

a setting step, of setting a segment size in accordance with a reception capability of the one or more destination nodes;

a segmentation step, of segmenting the object data into one or more segments in accordance with the segment size; and

a transfer step, of asynchronously transferring data in each segment from the source node to the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection.

28. (Amended) A data communication apparatus that transfers object data to one or more destination nodes via a logical connection, the apparatus comprising:

setting means for setting a segment size in accordance with a reception capability of the one or more destination nodes;

segmenting means for segmenting the object data into one or more segments in accordance with the segment size; and

transferring means for asynchronously transferring data in each segment to the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection.

--34. (New) A data communication method according to claim 24, wherein the transfer step includes continuously transferring data in each segment from the source node to the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection.

35. (New) A data communication method according to claim 24, wherein the setting step includes setting the segment size in accordance with the size of a receiving buffer in each destination node.

36. (New) A data communication method according to claim 24, wherein the setting step includes setting the segment size in accordance with a maximum payload size of a packet receivable by each destination node.

37. (New) A data communication method according to claim 24, wherein the setting step includes setting the segment size in accordance with the lowest reception capability.

38. (New) A data communication method according to claim 24, wherein the segment size of each segment is variable.

39. (New) A data communication method according to claim 24, wherein the data communication method is applicable to a serial bus system.

40. (New) A data communication method according to claim 24, wherein the data communication method is applicable to IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

41. (New) A data communication method according to claim 24, wherein the object data is one of image data, audio data, graphics data, and text data.

42. (New) A data communication apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the transferring means is adapted to continuously transfer data in each segment to the one or more destination nodes via the logical connection.

43. (New) A data communication apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the setting means is adapted to set the segment size in accordance with the size of a receiving buffer in each destination node.

44. (New) A data communication apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the setting means is adapted to set the segment size in accordance with a maximum payload size of a packet receivable by each destination node.

45. (New) A data communication apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the setting means is adapted to set the segment size in accordance with the lowest reception capability.

46. (New) A data communication apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the segment size of each segment is variable.

47. (New) A data communication apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the apparatus and the one or more destination nodes are in a serial bus system.